

Town Meeting Coordinating Committee
Meeting of Wednesday, October 25, 2011
Town Room, Town Hall

Present: Peggy Roberts, Nonny Burack, Adrienne Terrizzi, Mary Streeter, Patricia Holland, Carol Gray. Absent: Harry Brooks.

Peggy called the meeting to order at 1:04 pm.

Mary announced that the telecast of the Warrant Review was now on line from Amherst Media.

Meeting with Jim Lescault of Amherst Media:

Adrienne handed out a list titled "Subjects for Discussion with Jim Lescault." Jim had a copy of the list.

Bus Tour: Jim objected to filming the TMCC bus trip because previous efforts had been inadequate and the new staff was not yet trained and available. Carol and others objected that earlier productions were still interesting and that this bus trip was very educational for Town Meeting members. Peggy and Nonny proposed not filming now but planning on the filming the bus trip for Spring Town Meeting instead. Jim proposed shooting still shots ahead of time for this Fall meeting and asking if an intern could film the Sunday bus trip; he thought it unlikely an intern would agree.

Meeting Coverage: To improve audibility at Town Meeting, some loudspeakers in the rear will be shut off to cut feedback. Jim plans to ask Marie Geryk for student help with mixing. He will move the receivers for the hand-held microphones to the stage to improve sound.

He can't supply two additional mikes for the upcoming meeting but will explore doing this for Spring TM.

He will also explore using copper wires strung around the room that will help those with hearing aids and cochlear implants; a New York Times article describing this technique came from TM member Larry Orloff to TMCC.

Jim then explained the moderator's difficulties with the microphone—a cell phone in Mr. Gregg's shirt pocket.

When asked about the entertaining public service announcement from last Town Meeting on using microphones, Jim said he no longer had it.

Public Access to Meetings: Peggy said she would like the Amherst Media schedule of broadcasts available on the computer. Jim said he would bring up the matter and expects the schedules to return.

Announcements and Screens: Mary noted the ads for police, et al., unnecessarily interrupt the WFCR broadcast. Peggy said she would prefer more replays of committee meetings.

How can TMCC help him: Jim said meetings like today's were very useful. He went on to explain how very limited his budget and time were for filming other town committees' meetings. Mary said she would send him the new master list of committees and schedules. Some felt filming the Budget Coordinating Group was especially important; Carol did not agree.

Contact people at the station: Jim said he should be the only contact person for the time being until he knows the capabilities of his new staff.

Mary, Adrienne, and Peggy expressed the Committee's thanks for his coming. He told us that WMECO has agreed to let Amherst Media stay in the building until August 2012, and that they are searching hard for a new site.

Preparing for Fall Town Meeting: Peggy will contact Harrison Gregg to see if we have the handicapped parking needed.

Nonny and Adrienne agreed to be microphone runners. Mary will put a notice on the TM listserv seeking more runners. Packet Materials: Everything is ready for the first TM packet.

Pat will follow up on securing the bus and finding out the cost, and drivers' phone numbers.

Survey on Starting Time for Town Meeting: Carol typed the final version of the questionnaire on TM's starting time, and Pat will send it to Debbie Gordon in the Select Board office for copying for TM. Pat will also hand it out the first night of TM, as members receive their tally cards. She will bring a box for people to deposit the surveys.

Topics the Chair did not reasonably anticipate 48 hours before meeting:

Nonny said she was disappointed we had not changed the tally cards to omit numbers and dates, as we had discussed. She immediately contacted town clerk Sandra Burgess, who said she would not change them now.

Nonny also asked whether Harry Brooks had submitted his resignation; the answer was no. Adrienne will draft a resignation letter for him to sign and return, and Carol will phone him and Pauline. He has to resign from TM as well.

Pat gave Mary the sign-up sheet and evaluations from the October 23rd precinct meeting. Nonny commented it went well.

Minutes of October 6 and 14: We reviewed the minutes and accepted them as amended.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Patricia Holland, Clerk
Approved November 28, 2011

Documents provided:

1. Agenda
2. List, "Subjects for Discussion with Jim Lescault"
3. Minutes of October 6 and 14, 2011